

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image processing method for adding information to image data, comprising:

subjecting the image data to a predetermined process in accordance with a characteristic of the information, before the information is added;

adding the information to the image data that has been subjected to the predetermined process; and

extracting the information from the image data to which the information has been added.

2. The image processing method according to claim 1, wherein the information is a frequency component.

3. The image processing method according to claim 1, wherein the predetermined process is a process for varying a response by frequency.

4. The image processing method according to claim 1, wherein the predetermined process eliminates, from frequency characteristics of the image data, a frequency characteristic that is possibly confused with the information.

5. An image processing method for adding information to image data, comprising:

altering a process for adding the information in accordance with characteristics of at least one of output means of the image data and input means of the image data.

6. The image processing method according to  
claim 5, wherein at least one of the output means and  
the input means is selected by selection means, and  
a process for adding the information is performed  
5 in accordance with characteristics of the selected  
output means or the selected input means.

7. The image processing method according to  
claim 5, wherein a resolution, and a tone pattern cycle  
and direction of at least one of the output means and  
10 the input means are selected by selection means.

8. The image processing method according to  
claim 5, further comprising:

printing out a test pattern in advance by output  
means that is used;  
15 reading the test pattern by input means; and  
altering a process for adding the information in  
accordance with a result of reading.

9. The image processing method according to  
claim 8, wherein the test pattern is a patch or a tone  
20 pattern, which includes at least an intermediate level.